

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

DPW-01 IO-12 NIC-01 RSR-01 /131 W

----- 039489

R 261143 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3817

INFO WHITE HOUSE

CIA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

CINCPAC

DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI

CDR USSAG NKP

CDR 13 AF ADVON UDORN

USDEL JEC PARIS

SECDEF

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 3213

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINS, PINT, PFOR, MARR, MASS, MCAP, MOPS, LA, US, VN,  
XC

SUBJECT: NINTH WEEK OF LAO CEASEFIRE

REF: VIENTIANE 3059

BEGIN SUMMARY: MILITARY ACTIVITY IN LAOS FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 25

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DROPPED TO LOWEST LEVEL SINCE CEASEFIRE TOOK EFFECT. ONLY 21 GROUND INCIDENTS REPORTED AND 39 RLAF SORTIES FLOWN. APRIL 26 RETURN TO VIENTIANE OF LPF PLENIPOTENTIARY REPRESENTATIVE PHOUMI VONGVICHIT HOLDS OUT PROSPECT FOR RESUMPTION OF MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN LAO PARTIES. END SUMMARY

1. MILITARY: AIR AND GROUND MILITARY ACTION IN LAOS IN THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 25 DROPPED TO THE LOWEST LEVEL SINCE THE LAO CEASEFIRE TOOK EFFECT FEBRUARY 22. THERE WERE 21 GROUND INCIDENTS REPORTED, WHICH IS ABOUT ONE- HALF LAST WEEK' S PREVIOUS LOW OF 40. ONLY FOUR INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN MR' S I AND II, WITH REMAINDER DIVIDED EVENLY AMONG OTHER MR' S. THREE OF THE 21 INCIDENTS WERE MULTI- COMPANY ATTACKS OR HEAVY ATTACKS BY FIRE, FORCING FRIENDS TO WITHDRAW FROM POSITIONS IN FAR NORTHWEST ( NORTHWEST OF XIENG LOM) AND NORTH OF PDJ ( WEST OF BOUAM LONG), BUT NOT INFLECTING HEAVY CASUALTIES. FRIENDLY FORCES REPORTED FIRING NO RPT NO ARTILLERY SINCE APRIL 16 . RLAF SORTIE RATE ALSO FELL TO A NEW WEEKLY LOW LEVEL OF 39 (33 T-28' S; 6 AC-47' S), WHICH IS WELL BELOW THE TOTALS FOR ANY PREVIOUS WEEK AND IS ABOUT ONE- HALF OF THE WEEKLY AVERAGE FOR THE PAST MONTH.

2. POLITICAL: PROSPECTS FOR THE RESUMPTION OF MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS BRIGHTENED WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT, APRIL 24, THAT PHOUMI VONGVICHIT WAS DEPARTING SAM NEUA FOR VIENTIANE. PHOUMI ARRIVED IN VIENTIANE APRIL 26. ACCORDING TO LPF BROADCAST, THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE APPOINTED PHOUMI AS SPECIAL ADVISOR TO LPF DELEGATION AND AS " PLENIPOTENTIARY RDCQESENTATIVE OF PRINCE STUPHANOUVONG AT THE PEACE TALKS." RLG NEGOTIATOR NGON SANANIKONE AND HIS LPF COUNTERPART PHOUN SIPRASEUTH, WHO RESUMED THEIR DAILY TALKS AFTER A BREAK FOR LAO NEW YEAR, HAD BEEN LARGELY MARKING TIME IN RECENT WEEKS; BUT THEY HAD, NONETHELESS, KEPT THE NEGOTIATING CHANNEL OPEN. AS NGON POINTED OUT IN A RECENT INTERVIEW, LPF DESIRE TO CONTINUE THE TALKS COULD MEAN THAT IT WILL MOVE QUICKLY INTO SERIOUS BARGAINING WHEN HANOI GIVES THE SIGNAL. SEVERAL SOURCES REPORT THAT LPF REPRESENTATIVES IN VIENTIANE ARE SAYING THAT LPF WISHES A NEW GOVERNMENT FORMED BY EARLY JUNE. WITH PHOUMI' S ARRIVAL, LPF' S INTENTIONS SHOULD SOON BECOME EVIDENT. DEAN

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NMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a  
\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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**Review History:** RELEASED <07-Aug-2001 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <09-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>  
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**TAGS:** MARR, MASS, MCAP, MOPS, PGOV, PINS, LA, US, XC, PINT  
**To:** BANGKOK  
CIA  
EA  
LONDON  
MOSCOW  
NEW DELHI  
OTTAWA

PHNOM PENH  
SECSTATE WASHDC

**Type:** TE

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